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**For immediate release:**

### **PSI Selected as New Clearinghouse Contractor** *Strengthened Focus on Customer-Centered Operation*

(TOPEKA) – The Kansas Health Policy Authority has awarded a contract to Policy Studies, Inc. (PSI) to operate the state’s HealthWave clearinghouse operation. HealthWave blends the state’s Medicaid managed care program and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) into an integrated insurance offering. The clearinghouse is responsible for processing new applications for managed care benefits under Medicaid and SCHIP, and for conducting annual reviews for benefit eligibility.

The contract takes effect immediately. After a seven-month implementation period to start up operations, PSI will assume responsibility for the clearinghouse from MAXIMUS in January.

“The clearinghouse is a critical part of the state’s public insurance program,” said KHPA Executive Director Dr. Andrew Allison, PhD. “This is the area where we’ve seen tremendous growth in our workload during this economic downturn. When people lose their jobs, many of them turn to Medicaid and SCHIP as their only option for affordable health coverage. It’s vital for them, and for us, that applications are processed promptly and accurately. This was an open and competitive process and we had a number of strong bids. PSI had the best proposal at the lowest cost to the state. ”

During the first five months of 2009, the clearinghouse received an average of more than 11,000 applications and reviews per month, an increase of more than 1,000 applications per month over the previous year.

PSI teamed with EDS to offer Kansas a solution that will enable the Clearinghouse to improve accessibility to the HealthWave program by eligible citizens. PSI’s Clearinghouse solution will determine eligibility with greater speed, accuracy, and customer satisfaction. EDS currently serves as the fiscal agent contractor for Medicaid and SCHIP, which includes claims processing as well as utilization reviews required by federal regulations.

(more)

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Dawn Gelle, regional vice president for PSI, said the new contract will result in greater efficiency for the state and better service for beneficiaries.

“By operating the Medicaid program and SCHIP together, Kansas gives families with children who are eligible for both programs the ability to have the same health plan and health provider for all family members,” Gelle said. “Our solution builds on this customer-focused vision by making it easier and faster for consumers to contact and work with the Clearinghouse to obtain and retain HealthWave coverage. We’re very honored and enthusiastic to work with KHPA to achieve our shared vision for this program.”

Headquartered in Denver, Colo., PSI is a leading provider of administrative case management services to health and human services agencies. The company currently operates 54 health and human services programs spanning 28 states and the District of Columbia. In addition to performing administrative functions associated with public health insurance, PSI manages outsourced child support enforcement programs, helping state and local governments collect court-ordered payments for children and custodial parents. It also partners with workforce boards and other organizations to grow local economies and help the unemployed find work.

The contract extends for three years, with options for renewal in each of the succeeding three years. The cost of the contract over the full six years is estimated at \$56 million.